

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 99

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes April 11-17, 2024, as Black Maternal Health Week in Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize April 11-17, 2024, as Black Maternal Health Week in Louisiana.

3 WHEREAS, the wonders of pregnancy and childbirth can be the beginning joys of  
4 motherhood, leading to a lifetime of happiness and fulfillment; while many women  
5 experience pregnancy and childbirth with few challenges, each year there are women who  
6 needlessly face short-term, long-term, and dangerous complications, with some  
7 complications resulting in death; and

8 WHEREAS, compared to white women, black women are more likely to experience  
9 preventable maternal death; in 2020, the maternal mortality rate for black women was more  
10 than fifty-five deaths per one hundred thousand live births; according to the Centers for  
11 Disease Control and Prevention, in 2020, eight hundred sixty-one women died of maternal  
12 causes in the United States; in 2021, that number rose to one thousand two hundred five  
13 women who died of maternal causes in this country, as reported by the National Center for  
14 Health Statistics; this translates into more than thirty-three deaths per one hundred thousand  
15 live births nationally; and

16 WHEREAS, Louisiana leads the nation with the highest maternal mortality rate;  
17 according to the Louisiana Department of Health, black mothers are four times more likely  
18 to die from pregnancy-related causes than their white counterparts; the alarming rate of black  
19 maternal mortality in this state can be attributed to several factors including implicit and  
20 systemic bias, socioeconomic status, lack of access to quality health care, and lack of  
21 adequate health coverage; and

1           WHEREAS, pregnancy and childbirth should not be a death sentence for any woman;  
2   and

3           WHEREAS, Louisiana is committed to reducing the number of preventable maternal  
4   deaths and reducing health disparities among women; improving health outcomes for  
5   pregnancy and childbirth increases the survival rate of mothers and their ability to raise their  
6   own children, which has a positive impact on the state; and

7           WHEREAS, it is important to support every woman who experiences pregnancy and  
8   childbirth; it is vital for healthcare providers to recognize the signs of and properly diagnose  
9   maternal complications in a timely and effective manner so that appropriate treatment can  
10   be rendered; and

11          WHEREAS, improving access to health care by expanding telehealth services and  
12   the use of midwives and doulas to foster healthy pregnancies has shown positive results in  
13   the community; and

14          WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week is dedicated to building awareness,  
15   activism, and community and is recognized every year, from April 11-17, as part of the  
16   observation of National Minority Health Month in April; and

17          WHEREAS, to increase awareness of maternal and infant health outcomes black  
18   women endure, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., launched its initiative and essential  
19   program, Project CRADLE Care, and has joined forces with many other organizations to  
20   highlight and recognize Black Maternal Health Week.

21          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
22   Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize April 11-17, 2024, as Black Maternal Health  
23   Week in Louisiana and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that the state continue to make  
24   progress in its efforts to improve maternal healthcare, especially for black mothers.

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DIGEST

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